

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 03559 292331Z

15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 CU-04 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-08 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /155 W

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R 290827Z MAR 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 158

INFO USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD CH

SUBJECT: PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLE ON PRC FOREIGN TRADE

REF: (A) PEKING 497; (B) HK 3254

SUMMARY: PEOPLE'S DAILY MARCH 22 CARRIED ARTICLE WHICH IN OUR VIEW CONTINUES AND ELEVATES THE LEVEL OF CRITICISM OF ADVOCATES OF IMPORTS OF FOREIGN MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY. THIS INTERPRETATION DIFFERS FROM THAT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY USLO PEKING. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGEN HAS OBTAINED COPY OF PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD) MARCH 22 ARTICLE "ADHERE TO THE POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE" REPORTED REF (A). IN OUR READING, THIS ARTICLE CONTINUES AND ELEVATES THE LEVEL OF CRITICISM OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE IMPORTS OF FOREIGN MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY. IT IS LESS HARSH IN TONE, BUT MAKES THE SAME POINTS AGAINST IMPORTS AS FEBRUARY'S STUDY AND CRITICISM (REF (B)). OUR INTERPRETATION THUS DIFFERS WITH USLO'S CONCLUSION THAT THE ARTICLE SUPPORTS CHINA'S PRESENT IMPORT ORIENTED FOREIGN TRADE POLICY. NCNA ENGLISH
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PAGE 02 HONG K 03559 292331Z

MARCH 28 CARRIED A PARTIAL AND SOMEWHAT TONED-DOWN

TRANSLATION WHICH OMITTS SOME PASSAGES THAT MIGHT TROUBLE FOREIGN READERS.

2. THE CENTRAL THEME OF THE ARTICLE IS MOST EVIDENT IN THE PARAGRAPH PARTIALLY QUOTED IN REF (A), PARA 3. WHEN QUOTED IN FULL, THE BURDEN OF THE PASSAGE IS TO CRITICIZE THOSE WHO ADVOCATE HEAVY IMPORTS. AS RENDERED BY THE CONGEN PRESS MONITORING UNIT, THE FULL TEXT READS AS FOLLOWS: "IN EMPHASIZING AND ADHERING TO THE POLICY OF MAINTAINING INDEPENDENCE AND KEEPING THE INITIATIVE IN OUR OWN HANDS AND RELYING ON OUR OWN EFFORTS, WE DO NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD NOT INTRODUCE FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY. THE INTRODUCTION OF A BIT OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY IS PERMISSIBLE. THE PROBLEM IS THAT WE MUST NOT PRACTICE TRAILING ALONG AT A SNAIL'S PACE. WE CAN ONLY USE IT AS REFERENCE AND MUST ACTIVELY CATCH UP. WE MUST MAKE DISCOVERIES, INNOVATIONS AND PROGRESS. OTHERWISE, WE SHALL ALWAYS BE TRAILING ALONG AT A SNAIL'S PACE BEHIND THE BACK SIDE OF OTHER PEOPLE."

3. IN THE SAME WAY, THE ENTIRE PIECE IS PLACED IN THE CONTEXT OF MAO'S "ON THE CORRECT HANDLING OF CONTRADICTIONS AMONG THE PEOPLE," AND THUS IS PREJUDICED AGAINST IMPORTS FROM THE START. MAO'S BASIC WORK IS AGAINST RELIANCE ON IMPORTS AND THIS IS ALSO THE GENERAL THRUST OF THE PD ARTICLE. IT GOES BEYOND PREVIOUS CRITICISMS, HOWEVER, BY RAISING THE LEVEL OF THE DEBATE FROM ONE OVER TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS TO ONE OF LOYALTY TO MAOIST DOCTRINE. "WHETHER WE FIRMLY ADHERE TO THE POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE," THE ARTICLE SAYS, "IS NOT JUST AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM, BUT A POLITICAL PROBLEM, A PROBLEM OF ADHERENCE OR NON-ADHERENCE TO THE PARTY'S BASIC LINE."

4. FOLLOWING A LENGTHY ENDORSEMENT OF SELF-RELIANCE, THE ARTICLE STATES THAT LIU SHAO-CHI AND LIN BIAO OPPOSED THIS POLICY. LIU, THE ARTICLE SAYS, PROMOTED THE "SLAVISH COMPROMISOR PHILOSOPHY" AND THE "IDEA OF TRAILING ALONG AT A SNAIL'S PACE." HE RELIED ON FOREIGNERS TO "ESTABLISH FACTORIES" AND CLAIMED THAT BUYING SHIPS WAS BETTER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HONG K 03559 292331Z

BUILDING THEM. LIN WAS "A SLAVISH WORSHIPER OF FOREIGNERS" WHO SAID THAT CHINA'S ECONOMY WAS "IN A STAGNANT STATE."

5. AFTER PUTTING TRUE MAOISM ON THE SIDE OF SELF-RELIANCE AND LIU AND LIN ON THE SIDE OF THOSE WHO ADVOCATE IMPORTS, THE ARTICLE REMINDS ITS READERS ABOUT THE PRC'S PAST EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH FOREIGN SUPPLIERS.

"DIDN'T US IMPERIALISM IMPOSE AN ECONOMIC BLOCKADE ON OUR COUNTRY IN AN ATTEMPT TO STRANGLE THE NEW CHINA?"

"DIDN'T SOVIET REVISIONISM BETRAY US, WITHDRAW ITS SPECIALISTS AND TEAR UP THE CONTRACTS?", IT ASKS RHETORICALLY.

6. TURNING ITS ATTENTION TO THE PRESENT SITUATION, PD SAYS THAT LIN'S INFLUENCE HAS NOT BEEN ELIMINATED. "THE ERRONEOUS NOTION OF BLIND FAITH IN THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES STILL EXISTS AMONG SOME COMRADES. IN THEIR EYES THEY SEE ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRIES AND SEEK ONLY TO IMPORT THINGS. IF THEY WERE PERMITTED TO HAVE THEIR WAY, THEY WOULD TAKE THE EVIL ROAD OF REVISIONISM." (THIS PASSAGE IS OMITTED FROM THE NCNA VERSION.)

7. COMMENT: IN THE PRESENT DEBATE, THE BASIC DIS-AGREEMENT APPEARS TO BE OVER THE PROPER LEVEL OF IMPORTS AND NOT WHETHER CHINA SHOULD CONTINUE TO PURCHASE MACHINERY AND TECHNOLOGY FOR THE WEST. THUS, IT IS POSSIBLE FOR PD TO ADMIT THE NEED FOR "A BIT OF FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY" WHILE ARGUING STRONGLY AGAINST IMPORTS IN GENERAL. THE CENTRAL MESSAGE OF THIS AND PREVIOUS ARTICLES IS THAT IMPORTS SHOULD BE HELD TO THE ESSENTIAL MINIMUM. AT THE SAME TIME, THE MEDIA ARE GIVING MAXIMUM ATTENTION TO WORKERS' TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS AS THE MEANS TO INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS.

8. VIEWED IN PURELY POLITICAL TERMS, THE DEBATE APPEARS TO BE AN ATTACK ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS AND DECISION MAKING ON IMPORTS. BY LUMPING THOSE WHO WOULD ADVOCATE IMPORTS TOGETHER WITH ARCH VILLAINS, LIU AND LIN, THE ARTICLE CARRIES A CLEAR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 HONG K 03559 292331Z

WARNING TO THOSE WHO WOULD FAVOR SOLVING PRODUCTION PROBLEMS THROUGH IMPORTS. THE PIECE STOPS SHORT OF PUBLICLY BRANDING SUCH COMRADES AS ENEMIES, BUT SAYS THAT A PERSON'S STAND IN THIS ISSUE IS A TEST OF HIS LOYALTY TO THE PARTY LINE.

9. CONGEN PMU TRANSLATION WILL BE WIRE FILED TO WASHINGTON VIA FBIS CHANNELS. COPY WILL ALSO BE POUCHED TO PEKING.
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